

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 01458 101833Z

ACTION IO-13

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NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
SECSTATE WASHDC 3543

UNCLAS USUN 1458

PASS: AMBASSADOR YOUNG, TOM OFFENBURGER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S TRIP

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING IS MEDIA REACTION TO AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S AFRICA TRIP. END SUMMARY.

2. MOST PAPERS AND TV PROGRAMS IN REPORTING THE DEPARTURE OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG GAVE BROAD OUTLINES OF TRIP, UNDER-SCORING THAT VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA STILL IN DOUBT AND THAT THE SAG IS EXPECTED TO GIVE ITS DECISION MAY 10 OR 11. ABC GOOD MORNING AMERICA REPORTS THAT "SPECULATION IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS IS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ALLOW YOUNG TO ENTER THE COUNTRY, OR THAT THE DECISION WILL HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE MONDALE/VORSTER MEETING."

3. FOCAL POINT, HOWEVER, OF KITTY TELTSCH'S PAGE 3 NYTIMES STORY IS THAT YOUNG'S TRIP "AIMS IN PART AT IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH NIGERIA." WRITING THAT NIGERIA AND THE U.S. ARE KNOWN TO BE DISCUSSING SETTING UP A JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION TO ENCOURAGE AMERICAN INVESTORS AND INCREASE

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TRADE, TELTSCH QUOTES AN UNNAMED U.S. OFFICIAL FAMILIAR WITH AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S EFFORTS TO IMPRESS ON CONGRESS AND THE USG THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF NIGERIA AS BLACK AFRICA'S MOST POPULOUS AND RICHEST COUNTRY AS SAYING 'THE STAKES ARE HIGH ON THIS ONE.' BASHIR BORODO, ECONOMIC MINISTER OF THE NIGERIAN EMBASSY, ACCORDING TO TELTSCH, CONFIRMED THE ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN NIGERIA AND THE U.S. ARE

GOING ON 'AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL' WHICH MEANS THAT THEY INVOLVE LIEUT. GEN. OLUSEGUN OBASANJO. "THE PROPOSED JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION WOULD BE ALONG THE LINES OF THE TRADE COMMISSIONS THE UNITED STATES HAS WITH IRAN AND SAUDI ARABIA," STATES THE NYTIMES STORY. ARTICLE CONCLUDES THAT FOR 14 MONTHS AID HAS BEEN WORKING WITH THE NIGERIANS ON SUCH PROJECTS AS A GEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN PREPARATION FOR MOVING LAGOS, THE CAPITAL CITY, TO ANOTHER SITE AND THAT ACCORDING TO WILLIAM G. LYLES, THE COORDINATOR FOR SUCH ACTIVITIES, AID WOULD BE INTERESTED IN FUTURE ASSISTANCE TO NIGERIA.

4. AP STORY (BY SCHMEMANN) DATEDLINE ABIDJAN LEADS WITH YOUNG'S ARRIVAL STATEMENT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S EVOLVING AFRICA POLICY STRESSES 'DEVELOPMENT AND FOOD, AND NOT WARFARE AND DESTRUCTION.' SCHMEMANN WRITES TO DEMONSTRATE THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S CONCERN OVER AFRICA YOUNG CITED THE REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT; THE RECENT U.S.-LED MEETING OF FIVE WESTERN NATIONS WITH SOUTH AFRICA ON THE FUTURE OF NAMIBIA, AND THE 'POSITIVE BUT RESTRAINED APPROACH WE TOOK IN ZAIRE.' AP FURTHER QUOTES YOUNG IT'S A WHOLE CHANGE OF STYLE WHICH WE HOPE WILL BE A CHANGE OF POLICY. I THINK WE HAVE BEGUN A POLICY THAT WILL PERMIT US TO WORK WITH AFRICA AND PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF BOTH AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES.' SCHMEMANN CONCLUDES THAT YOUNG APPEARS "UNDISTURBED BY THE FLAP" RAISED ABOUT HIS TRIP TO JOHANNESBURG AND THAT "OBSERVERS SPECULATED THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY MAKE NO ANNOUNCEMENTS WHETHER IT INTENDED TO LET YOUNG IN

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UNTIL AFTER FOREIGN MINISTER R. F. BOTHA'S ELECTION RESULT BECOMES KNOWN ON WEDNESDAY. BOTHA TOOK THE LEAD IN DENOUNCING YOUNG'S PROPOSED VISIT, AND SOME SPECULATED THAT HIS CHIEF MOTIVE WAS TO ATTRACT CONSERVATIVE VOTES."

LEONARD

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